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### **DOC Chiefs Nationwide Support Secretary Vail's Plan to Prevent Repeat of Maurice Clemmons Case**

OLYMPIA – State corrections directors across the country overwhelmingly support Secretary Eldon Vail's proposed changes to the interstate compact rules that applied to Maurice Clemmons, the offender from Arkansas who fatally shot four Lakewood police officers in November.

The Interstate Compact Commission will vote on Vail's recommended rule changes in October at a meeting in San Antonio. Vail's proposals would provide receiving states more authority to send offenders back to their original state if the offender poses a significant risk to public safety. It would also provide receiving states with more complete criminal histories before deciding prior to accepting cases.

Vail presented his proposed amendments last month in Chicago at a meeting for the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

"I essentially asked DOC directors from other states, 'Don't you want to have more authority of the out-of-state offenders who are in your state? And don't you want to know their complete criminal history beforehand?'" Vail said. "The overwhelming answer to both questions was, 'Yes we do.'"

The current interstate compact rules did not allow Washington state DOC to send Clemmons back to Arkansas even after he was arrested three times in Pierce County in 2009. Arkansas was following the interstate compact rules when it refused to take Clemmons back after multiple requests from Washington.

"The current rules don't support public safety," Vail said. "They do not give enough authority to the states that actually supervise offenders. Our proposals would change that."

Vail, with Gov. Chris Gregoire joining via webcam, formally proposed the rule changes to interstate compact commissioners [at a meeting in March](#) in Lexington, Ky. The commissioners agreed to put Vail's proposed amendments up for a vote at its business meeting Oct. 12-13 in San Antonio. Vail and Assistant Secretary Scott Blonien will address commission members before the vote.

"There is still one hurdle left to correct the flaws in the interstate rules," Vail said. "I think the fact that the overwhelming majority of DOC administrators across the country support our amendments certainly helps our case."

